



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

**Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 23, 2011**

**Senate Bill 1206, An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity by
the Public**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, on behalf of the Judicial Branch, on Senate Bill 1206, *An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity by the Public*. We are concerned that the proposed language is overbroad because there is no limitation as to where it applies. There are numerous areas where, for a variety of reasons, photography, videotaping or otherwise recording an image is not allowed. This bill, as drafted, would prohibit a peace officer from stopping a person taking pictures in such an area from doing so. While the bill does state that the person cannot obstruct or interfere with the peace officer's performance of their duties, it does not address the situation where the duties are stopping someone from taking a still or video image.

In the case of the Judicial Branch, the requirements of this proposal would jeopardize security. Judicial Marshals, who are peace officers and thus would be covered by this bill, are responsible for enforcing the rules regarding cameras in our courthouses. These rules, which are based in large part on security concerns, allow cameras to be used only under certain circumstances and otherwise prohibit persons from taking photographs or video images in the courts. This bill would prohibit Judicial Marshals from stopping someone who is violating these rules.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.